

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON THURSDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 1999 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. K.R. Baker, D.M. Gray, Mrs. A. Parsons, K.R. Snell and J. Taylor.

Together with:

Representing Teachers Associations

Mrs. C. Anthony - (NAHT)

Miss P. Brown - (ATL)

Mr. T.H. Mathias - (SHA)

Miss N. Thomas - (NUT)

Representing Religious Bodies

Rev. A.D. Ireland - Baptist Church

Rev. D.J. Carpenter -

Together with:

ESIS Religious Education Adviser (VT), Associate Religious Education Adviser and Committee Services Officer (KW).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. P. Sass (SHA) and Mrs. S. John (UCAC) and Mr. D. Hopkins (Head of Professional Services).

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman introduced Miss Carys Thomas, the ESIS Associate Religious Education Adviser and welcomed her to the meeting.

SA9

MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of Miss P. Brown in the list of those SACRE members who had tendered their apologies, the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 1999 and the minutes of the Standing Conference held on 16th July 1999 be noted.

SA10 Caerphilly SACRE Third Annual Report

Consideration was given to the third Annual Report from Caerphilly SACRE that outlined the activities of SACRE during the academic year 1998 - 99.

Each Section of the report was considered in detail and SACRE members were invited to make comments and ask questions and some minor amendments were made. It was noted that the final document would be produced bi-lingually.

RESOLVED that the Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 1998-99 as attached to the report be approved and be sent to ACCAC by 30th December 1999.

SA11 Caerphilly SACRE Development Plan

SACRE members were informed that it was necessary for them to discuss the elements of the Development Plan in order to ensure that the business with which they dealt was current and future developments were identified.

Consideration was then given to the contents of the Caerphilly SACRE Revised Development Plan 1998 - 2001 and it was noted that the first objective identified should read 'Analyse examination entries and results for religious studies and **religious education** within the county borough.'

RESOLVED that the Caerphilly SACRE Development Plan be noted.

SA12 Membership of Caerphilly SACRE

The current composition of Caerphilly SACRE was considered and it was noted that the one grant maintained school in the area was now a Foundation School as a result of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 so that separate representation was not required.

The two places for co-opted members were discussed and it was reported that requests for co-option had been received from the Association of Valleys RE Teachers and Mr. R. Paterson, the local nominee of the British Humanist Association.

The meeting discussed the general principles of co-option and a question was asked about the term of office of a co-opted member. It was agreed that this information would be made available at the next meeting.

The meeting discussed the request from the Association of Valleys RE Teachers and felt that this body would be able to make a valuable contribution to discussions on religious education and should therefore be allowed a full place on Caerphilly SACRE.

Consideration was then given to the request received from Mr. Paterson and it was noted that statutory guidance on the Humanist movement indicated that humanists should not become full members of SACREs, although they may be invited to join in a non-voting ex-officio capacity.

Members felt that before making a decision on Mr. Paterson's request for co-option it would be beneficial to invite him to the next meeting to outline the Humanist philosophy and to explain what positive contribution he feels he could make to Caerphilly SACRE. Concern was expressed that this course of action would create a precedent when considering any further requests for co-option but it was stressed that all applications would be treated on their own

merits.

The Chairman referred to notes Mr. Paterson had enclosed with his request for co-option and it was agreed that these would be circulated to SACRE members with the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that -

- (i) the Valleys RE Teachers be allowed to take a full place on Caerphilly SACRE;
- (ii) the composition of Caerphilly SACRE be as set out below -

Members of the Local Education Authority	-	6 places
Teacher Associations	-	6 places
Churches	-	5 places
Valley's RE Teachers	-	1 place
Co-options	-	2 places
Total Membership	-	20
- (iii) Mr Paterson be invited to the next SACRE meeting to outline the British Humanist Association's philosophy and explain what positive contribution he feels this would make to Caerphilly SACRE.

SA13 Report on the WASACRE AGM held at Caerphilly on July 7th 1999

Consideration was given to a report which gave an executive summary of the deliberations of WASACRE at its AGM held at the Caerphilly Council Offices on 7th July 1999.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SA14 WASACRE Representation

The meeting was informed that the next WASACRE Meeting was due to be held in Haverfordwest on 12th November 1999. SACRE members were reminded that each 'group' was entitled to nominate a representative to attend WASACRE meetings.

RESOLVED that Councillor D.M. Gray be nominated as the Local Authority's representative on WASACRE and any nominations from the other groups be notified to the Clerk to SACRE as soon as possible.

SA15 Proposed Cycle of Meetings

RESOLVED that the cycle of Caerphilly SACRE meetings for the academic year 1999/2000 be approved as follows -

Wednesday, 8th December, 1999 with a Standing Conference to follow;
Friday, 28th January 2000;
Monday, 6th March, 2000;
Thursday, 25th May, 2000;
Tuesday, 4th July, 2000.

SA16 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education - Update

The ESIS Religious Education Adviser reported that a letter and a copy of the Agreed Religious Education Syllabus had now been sent to all schools. She indicated that she had received positive responses from both primary and secondary schools.

Schools had been invited to make comments on the document and it was intended to hold a Standing Conference following the SACRE meeting in December to consider any comments received and to formally adopt the Agreed Syllabus.

SA17 Exemplification of Standards Document

It was noted that this document had been purchased by the Local Education Authority and sent to Secondary Schools.

Meeting closed at 3.10 p.m.